The Church, God’s Plan for this Age: Believers Are Chosen In Christ

Ephesians 1:1-14

June 7, 2020

Who are God’s elect, and why does it matter?

1. Believers are chosen in Christ (1-3).
   1. Chosen in Christ to receive all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (3)
   2. Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (4a)
      1. Before the foundation of the world, God chose Christ to be His chosen instrument of redemption.
      2. Christ is God’s chosen, and we are chosen in Christ (2; cf. 1 Peter 1:19-20).
   3. Chosen in Christ to be holy and without blame before him in love (4b)
      1. Election is not of sinners to salvation.
      2. Election is of believers to spiritual blessings such as holiness, blamelessness, and love.
2. Believers are predestined by Christ (5-6a).
   1. Predestined to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself (5)
      1. God predestined believers to enjoy sonship (Romans 8:29-30).
      2. God predestined believers to enjoy a resurrection body like Christ’s in the resurrection (Romans 8:22-23).
   2. Predestined according to the praise of the glory of his grace (6)
      1. This choosing glorifies God’s grace (cf. 2:8-9).
      2. God does not predestine some sinners to eternal life and others to eternal condemnation.
      3. Instead, God predestined believers to receive sonship!
3. Believers are accepted in Christ, the Beloved (6b-10)
   1. In Christ we have redemption through His blood (7a)
   2. In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins (7b)
      1. According to the riches of His grace
      2. We are forgiven on the basis of God’s grace, not our merit.
   3. In Christ, the mystery of God’s will is revealed to us (8-11)
      1. The church was a secret which God chose to reveal through Christ (8-9).
      2. The church has received the revelation that Christ will unite all things one day (10)!
4. Believers have an inheritance in Christ (11-12).
   1. The inheritance of the believer was predestined by the will of God (11).
   2. The inheritance of the believer was to the praise of His glory (12a).
   3. The inheritance of the believer is received by faith (12b-13a).
      1. Who first **trusted** in Christ (12b).
      2. In whom ye also **trusted**, **after that ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation (13a).
   4. The inheritance of the believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit (13c-14)
      1. **After that ye believed**, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (13c).
      2. The Holy Spirit is the “earnest”, or “down payment” on the final redemption of the believer (14a).
      3. The plan of God in eternity past to choose Christ to adopt, accept, redeem, forgive, and seal those who are justified by faith brings God the greatest glory (14b)!

Conclusion:

1. Who are God’s elect? Those who place their faith in the Chosen One, Jesus Christ. Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Why does it matter?
   1. Believers are predestined to enjoy the blessings of being a son conformed to the image of Christ! Are you becoming more like Christ?
   2. Believers are accepted in the Beloved One, on Christ’s merits and not our own. Are you confident that your sins are forgiven and that you will one day live with Christ forever?
   3. Believers have an inheritance which is received by faith sealing them by the Holy Spirit. This is the believers joy and the believers hope. Are you reminding yourself of this confident hope?